

Meeting Record

**MPO Officials Committee Meeting
Thursday, March 24, 2005
Mayor's Conference Room
City County Building, 555 South 10th Street
Lincoln, Nebraska**

MEMBERS AND OTHERS

IN ATTENDANCE: **Members:** Mayor Seng, Larry Hudkins, Deb Schorr, Ken Svoboda (representing Terry Werner), Monty Fredrickson (representing John Craig), NDOR

Others: Mike Brienzo, Roger Figard, Randy Hoskins, Karen Sieckmeyer, Virendra Singh, Public Works/Utilities; Kent Morgan, David Cary, Planning; Steve Garbe, John Jacobsen, NDOR; Duane Eitel, Chris Carroll, Steve Bahler, Olsson Associates; Abbas Mohaddes and Mike Malone, Iteris

Item No. 1 - Review and action on the draft minutes of the Officials Committee Meeting.

Larry Hudkins, Lancaster County Commissioner, called the meeting to order and requested a motion to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2005, meeting. Motion was made by Ken Svoboda to approve the minutes, seconded by Deb Schorr. Motion carried unanimously.

Item No. 2 - Review and action on acceptance of the Intelligent Transportation System Regional Architecture Plan for the 13 county region including the Lincoln Metropolitan Area.

Virendra Singh explained that the ITS project is part of our long range planning process which is identified in our current comprehensive plan. ITS will help with security, safety, and mobility of the motoring public. This particular project is in response to the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration requirements. Singh then introduced Iteris and Olsson Associates, the two consultants for this project.

Abbas Mohaddes with Iteris went over the attached slide presentation which included the technical overview of what has been accomplished and why; discussed the legal process; and where we go from here.

Hudkins then opened it up for questions. The Mayor inquired about the public response in the early stages of this project. Chris Carroll responded that the public was represented very well. The Mayor asked if other communities had their employees involved. Mohaddes stated that they have all of the comments from the workshops and there was a very diverse group involved.

Hudkins wanted to thank Virendra and the consultant team for the excellent work they have done. Mayor Seng made a motion to accept the Intelligent Transportation System Regional Architecture Plan, Svoboda seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Item No. 3. Review and action on the TIP Amendments for FY 2004-05 to include projects receiving Recreational Trails Program Funds and Transportation Enhancement Program Funds.

Project 1 - Lower Platte South NRD, Homestead Trail from Princeton to Cortland.

Project 2 - UNL, Trail and Bridge along Huntington-Leighton Avenue between 33rd and 48th Street.

Project 3 - Lincoln Parks and Recreation, Tierra Park Trails.

Mike Brienzo stated that we have three TIP Amendments that have been requested. These three projects need to be added to the TIP in order to take advantage of available Federal funding. The first amendment is the Lower Platte South NRD Homestead Trail which is from Princeton into Gage County to Cortland. This project is identified for funding by the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) which is a State Games and Park funding program to support this project.

The second amendment is the University of Nebraska project. This project is to build a trail along Huntington and Leighton from 33rd to 48th Street. The funding is coming from two different sources, one is the enhancement funds from the Federal Highway Administration funneled through the Department of Roads. The total project is \$670,000. The Federal fund portion is \$402,000. The \$268,000 will primarily be coming from the University of Nebraska. The trail will be built by the University of Nebraska and maintained by them.

The third amendment is the Lincoln Parks and Recreational Trails Project. They are placing trails within Tierra Park which is south of Highway 2 along South 27th Street. Those trails are within the park and they are receiving Recreational Trails Funds.

The City is asking for the approval to place in the TIP and it will be sent to the Department of Roads to have them placed in the State's TIP Program.

Mayor Seng moved approval of the three TIP Amendments, seconded by Svoboda. Motion carried unanimously.

Item No. 4 - Review and action on acceptance of the Lincoln Transportation System Management Report for the City of Lincoln.

Randy Hoskins stated that the report was started in mid 2004 using 2003 data. This was something that was called out in the City's Updated Comprehensive Plan that the City would do on an annual basis. The four main categories are; street system standards; network monitoring and analysis; maintaining level of service; and continuing monitoring and planning.

Street System Standards:

The information contained here is on the average travel speeds, signalized intersections, number of crashes, sidewalks/trails, and public transportation.

Network Monitoring and Analysis:

Some of the highlights are the City added 21 centerline miles and 62 lane miles to the City street system. An Automobile Occupancy Study was done in 2004 which showed a slight increase in ridership in vehicles but was not a statistically significant increase. The number of car crashes that have occurred city-wide have remained relatively constant over the past five years despite increasing traffic volumes as well as the number of miles of streets in the City. Transit usage for the year 2003-04 has increased over the previous year.

Maintaining Level of Service:

Traffic signal optimization and coordination work was performed on eight arterial streets city-wide in order to use the existing capacity that we have more effectively. Another major difference was made in eliminating the right for people to close lanes on our streets during peak hours. There are certain projects that must have high level approval in order to close lanes during peak hours. This is felt to be one way the City could make a significant difference in keeping traffic moving. Another thing that the City accomplished in order to make crash numbers to remain relatively steady in the last few years, is to complete an annual crash report. This looks at the highest location around town where there are the most crashes and looks for ways the City can work to reduce those crashes from occurring or reduce their severity.

We have constructed approximately twenty miles of new sidewalks during the last year.

The City of Lincoln is one of the leading cities in the State and probably one of the better ones in the nation in using Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) technology.

Incident Management Plans was developed in order to minimize the delay caused by crashes, closures or other roadway obstructions. These plans look how the City would get traffic routed around and flowing through these obstructions.

The Planning Department undertook the Multi-Modal study that looked at a number of options and gave some various scenario that would help us in getting rid of our dependence on single occupancy vehicles in the future.

Continuing Monitoring and Planning:

Public Works and Planning are in the process of switching to a new TransCAD Transportation modeling package. This will allow for improved monitoring and planning for transportation.

The City is also looking at updating the Long Range Transportation Plan.

Transportation Improvements and Enhancements by the City:

Engineering Services of Public Works/Utilities is tasked with designing, constructing and maintaining streets, sidewalks and traffic control devices, as well as other tasks within the City's right-of-way. The report listed numerous items that had been accomplished this past year.

Commissioner Hudkins asked if there were any questions. The Mayor asked if the report indicated the new reflectors that are being used on the medians around town. The Mayor gets more compliments regarding these reflectors on the ends of the medians. Hoskins indicated that they were mentioned in the

report on page 8.

Deb Schorr asked about the speed display readouts. Hoskins stated that there is one at Warlick off of Hiway 77 towards 14th Street, Cornhusker Hiway at 70th and I-180 Southbound lane. Schorr commented on how great it was to have these around town to get the cars and trucks to slow down.

Monty Fredrickson asked if the Long Range Transportation Plan was a requirement and is the State and City communicating enough so that noone is duplicating efforts. Hoskins said that this was a requirement of the MPO that every five years at a minimum it needs to be updated. The City has been participating in the State's Long Range Transportation Plan.

Deb Schorr made a motion to accept this plan, Svoboda seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Item No. 4 - Other topics for discussion.

Monty mentioned that they will be doing a mill and overlay on Highway 2 from Old Cheney to VanDorn next year and it will be all done at night. The State has been doing this in Omaha so the State felt this was the right thing to do for this stretch of highway.

There being no other discussion, a motion was made by Deb Schorr to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Svoboda. Motion carried unanimously.